

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 373  
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the Tennessee Bicentennial  
Celebration in 1996.

WHEREAS, more than four centuries ago, Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto looked out over the Mississippi River and sought to explore the lush forests and grasslands that would become Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing and good growing conditions soon brought many Native American tribes such as the Cherokee, Shawnee, Creek, Chickasaw and Choctaw to the unsettled and unmapped land; and

WHEREAS, as colonies and towns were being established along the Eastern seaboard, hearty pioneers blazed trails into what would become Tennessee, settling the Watauga area, founding the town of Jonesborough and eventually establishing the state of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1796, President George Washington signed the bill that made the area south of the Ohio River the 16th state of the Union; and

WHEREAS, the name for the last state to join the United States of America in her formative century was Tennessee, derived from the Cherokee name Tanasi, meaning River of Great Bend; and

WHEREAS, in the nation's first one hundred years, Tennessee led the way in the areas of leadership, bravery and perseverance; this great state served as a home to three U.S.

Presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, all who led this country in times crucial to the preservation of our union; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans demonstrated their patriotism and fortitude when we sent more than our quota of volunteers to assist our nation's defense effort in both the War of 1812 and the Mexican War; thus earning our state the proud sobriquet "The Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played a significant role in the battles of our great nation; tales of bravery and heroism have been written in Tennessee as the state was home to more Civil War battles than any other state except Virginia; and

WHEREAS, upon the cessation of the war, Tennessee resumed her tremendous growth as commerce, industry and agriculture rapidly developed; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1897, at the Centennial Exhibition, Tennessee took time to reflect on what she had achieved during her first one hundred years and looked forward to continuing development over the next century; and

WHEREAS, in the subsequent one hundred years, Tennessee has led the nation in numerous social, technological and cultural advances; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been a progressive leader in various social issues, including the Civil Rights Movement and being the deciding state in the ratification of the Women's Suffrage Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the 1940s earned Tennessee recognition as a pioneer in the field of nuclear energy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has played an instrumental role in the growth and development of American popular music: Memphis is the birthplace and the cradle of the blues and is also notable as a quality purveyor of rhythm and blues, jazz, and rock and roll; Nashville is Music City U.S.A. and the home of country music and the Grand Ole Opry; and the hills of East Tennessee have been a seminal influence in Appalachian folk music, including the traditional form of bluegrass; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1996, Tennessee proudly celebrates its 200th anniversary as a state of this great union; as we joyously celebrate our bicentennial, it is important that we remember the panoramic history of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that upon this 200th anniversary the Tennessee General Assembly take time to reflect on the proud heritage and many accomplishments of the great state during this, the year of Tennessee's Bicentennial Celebration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby designate 1996 as Tennessee's Bicentennial in honor of the state's 200th birthday and we encourage all Tennesseans to take pride in remembering the great history and traditions of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted.

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